

16 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Additional Geographical Maps in Support of the NIS on Antarctica

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1. A meeting was held this date between [REDACTED] CIA member 25X1A9a
on the Antarctic Working Committee of the OCB, Mr. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
[REDACTED] of the Geographic Area, ORR, [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
[REDACTED] OBI.

2. [REDACTED] said he had called me in respect to a problem arising
on the OCB Working Committee on Antarctica relative to further material
in support of the NIS on Antarctica. Specifically, two representatives of
USGS had indicated to the Committee that there was a large amount of work
necessary in terms of photographic analysis of geological formations which
should appear as geological maps in support of further economic intelligence
analysis on Antarctica. These representatives indicated that, in order to
determine the most valuable portions of Antarctica in terms of raw materials,
specifically minerals, metals, and solid fuels, it would be necessary to
develop these additional photo-geological maps. The project is estimated
[REDACTED] and essentially the problem is obtaining these funds and
integrating the findings into the NIS. I agreed to look into this matter
further since the contributions to the NIS had not yet been received. I
pointed out, however, that in my opinion the nature of the work appeared
to be more operational and technical than intelligence and as such I questioned
whether intelligence funds could be used for it. I further mentioned the fact
that we could not incorporate these findings into the present NIS but might,
of course, do so when a maintenance of the NIS was undertaken.

3. Subsequent to this meeting I called Mr. Kain in State and laid the
problem before him. Later he called me back to inform me that USGS had
been used in analyzing the geological information appearing in Chapter VI.
Further, Mr. Wm. E. Davies, geologist at USGS, had indicated to Mr. Kain
that in his opinion the type of work suggested would not result in a measurable
improvement in the information already used in Chapter VI of the NIS. It was
his opinion that this type of analysis would be useful principally in terms of
topographic information and terrain analysis which is covered in Chapter II
by Navy.

4. I transmitted this information to [REDACTED] and suggested that 25X1A9a
he advise the USGS representatives who had appeared before the working
committee to get in touch with Mr. Davies of USGS and clear this matter up
between them since there apparently was a difference of opinion on this point.
I asked [REDACTED] to keep me informed of any later developments in this
matter.

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Antarctica file